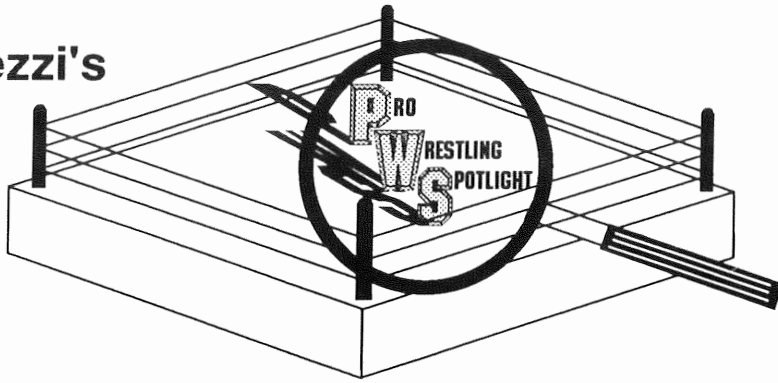




Z-Man Speaks Out

By Editor & Publisher
John Arezzi

He is known as the Z-Man. His teen idol looks and above average work in the ring make him popular with both females and males alike. During an appearance on a recent Pro Wrestling Spotlight show, Tom Zenk spoke out about his current role in World Championship Wrestling, his final days with the WWF, and his tag team with Rick Martel. His most shocking allegation was speaking about wrestlers receiving advances to buy drugs on the road while in the WWF.

The WWF Advanced Us Money to Buy Drugs

Zenk did not hold back when asked questions, yet I wish I had another hour to talk to him about some topics which we just touched the surface on. Attempts to reach him through WCW after the program were unanswered. I gained a great deal of respect for Zenk during his appearance and publicly invite him to continue our conversation with another guest appearance on the radio, or for this publication. Below are some of the topics Zenk talked about.

On The Defense Of The AWA: I think it was a case of a young guy, Vince McMahon coming along, younger, hungrier. Verne (Gagne) kind of scoffed at the idea he'd take him over. In fact, I think Vince told Verne himself he was gonna put him out of business. Now it looks like he (Vince) dominates professional wrestling nationwide except for the WCW. (Sarcastically) Compared to WCW, he's kind of small, regional promotion, since he's had to cancel some shows recently.

On The Demise Of Regional Territories: A bunch of us were talking about that last week. Little Tokyo came back and was hanging out. He said before it was better, we could work different territories and go in one area and wrestle six months to a year. You had Portland, San Francisco, L.A., Minneapolis, Florida and Texas to work. Now it is pretty limited. You can't get steady work unless you have good connections or are a great wrestler.

On The WCW Light Heavyweight Division: It's an up and coming thing. They kind of stuck me in there. They didn't



even ask me. It's really not my forte. But I think they wanted me in there (against Pillman) for a friend vs friend kind of deal.

On Kip Frey: (Ed. Note: this conversation took place two days before Bill Watts was hired.)

I think he's got a lot of good ideas. But you really don't catch on to the wrestling business overnight. There are so many different intricacies. There are different people talking, buzzing in your ear. It (should) take six months just to sit back and take it all in. It's tough to run a corporate structured company. Turner's very structured. There are certain rules, people above him. You have to do everything there by rank and file.

He's running a big business. I don't envy his position. Speaking for myself he's always been there, he listens to everything I've ever told him. He'll take the time for me.

On Jim Herd: I got along with him too, but he really didn't read the book, "How To Win Friends And Influence People." He was very abrasive to me a couple of times. Herd talked loud and would cut me off, so my feeling was Oh, Okay, you don't hear a word I'm saying, so good-bye. He's out of a job now, not anyone else.

On The Upcoming NWA Tag Tournament: We just spent the last two years of the company trying to boost the name WCW. This NWA deal, it's like me wrestling Pillman, I still don't know why. There seemed to be some trouble when a certain guy (Ric Flair) left...You know what I'm saying. That wasn't too business-like. I think that might have put an iron in the fire (about bringing back the name.)

On Steroids: Well, you know something John, I think it's...society. Bigger, better, the Terminator movies, the guy comes back to life. It was a billion dollar industry in the black market. The government had to say, "Hey lets put the brakes on it.", and they found out new evidence that its not good for kids and maybe even adults. Lets all play by the rules. The guys will be a little less big, but they'll be honest about being good role models for kids. One superintendent of schools asked me what organization I was in. If I wasn't in the WCW, and was in the WWF, she wasn't going to let me address her group of kids. That's how serious it is. Interesting isn't it? I felt bad. This superintendent knew about everything that is going on, and she isn't even a wrestling fan. That's how serious this thing has become. Kip gave us a policy and is instituting (enforcing) it after a certain period of time. When that time comes I know we're gonna get one (a mandatory testing policy). He's not a paper tiger. He looked me straight in the eye and said there's gonna be one. It's a good idea. It's good for everyone. Everyone's go to play by the same rules and that's that. It's a felony! How do you argue with that. It's against the law, let's all play by the same rules and everything will be all right.

On What Would Happen If Everyone Would Get Off Steroids: They're the same guys. They'll probably be faster, healthier and their diets will be better. It will probably do everyone a world of good. Lets play by the rules. Steroids are a thing of the past. Let's close that chapter.

On The WWF: I really worked hard to get there. It took me a couple of years, and I had a lot of help from Rick Martel. He pretty much did all the talking. After his promotion folded up in Montreal it was the best choice. But now with the certain things we all know that came about, maybe it wasn't such a hot place after all. I kinda saw all that coming. That was a great time. They're a great organization. They have perfect production. They do things first class. It's unfortunate that a few people or a few bad errors in judgment have made all this happen. It's too bad.

On Why He Left The WWF: I had a real bad contract from Vince and I was advised before they made any dolls or T-shirts, before they invested any money in me to get out. I wasn't happy with the money. I make better money...in WCW. There are a few other things which (just) came out in the news (which is why I left.)

On Rick Martel: Martel is one of the best tag team partners. We had a lot of cool moves. He was a good partner. But when you're on the road for a month or two at a time... check any of the booking sheets in 1987. Don't you think that's a little bit too much, to wrestle every night? The money he (McMahon) was drawing? I didn't agree with it (working every day.) I told Rick I wasn't happy. I said if you're happy you can stay. But I'm suggesting that we go back to Japan and work for Baba. It was a sure deal. He (Martel) said no, no, no. I asked him what he made the week before and he said twenty some hundred. I know what I made. That was the last day I worked.

On The WWF Steroid Scandal: It was great to perform to full houses, don't get me wrong. People don't know that we wrestled seven days a week. They want good strong bodies. Then all of a sudden your doctor gets indicted. There were some very serious problems when I was there. I'm really happy I got out before all this bad publicity and press. I mean my folks see this stuff on TV. Everyone asks me if it's as bad as it is. I'm embarrassed by it, quite frankly.

On WWF Contracts: When I worked for Titan I signed a contract for two years. It said they would pay me X amount of dollars for TV. Other than that it was based on a percentage of the gate. It was like, whatever they wanted to pay you. I see a lot of guys (from the WWF) calling the (WWF) office looking to jump. Everyone wants to come down here. Ask certain people that are up there, that were in the WCW if they're happy now. A lot of people made the wrong choice and now with the horrible horrible things that are being said about them (the WWF) in the media, on Geraldo. People come up to me and say, "You worked there?" How am I supposed to react to that when a kid asks me? Do you know what I'm saying?

On The WWF Sex Scandals: Yeah, I knew what was going on. Not with any teenage kids or anything, but there were innuendoes when you walked out of the showers. There was...an incident (with me) the last night I worked, um, I just never said anything. I went my own way. I knew I was going to work in Japan. I lost the best job I ever had. I went to the office to Vince McMahon and his wife Linda. I just said it was the money. I didn't feel like bringing up anything at that time. My goodness, five years later, and look at everything that has happened. I guess I knew.

On Drug Abuse In The WWF: They are traveling guys seven days a week. You could get a draw (advance) to go and buy drugs, steroids, speed uppers, downers... That sounds terrible and I don't care who hears it because it's the truth. I swear I've never seen anything like it.

Don't Forget to Listen to the
Pro Wrestling Spotlight
Every Sunday night on
WEVD 1050 AM **11pm - 12am**
LISTEN AND LEARN

WWF Summer Slam 1992 Set For The UK!

At press time, PWS has learned that the WWF will be moving it's summer spectacular, Summer Slam, to the United Kingdom. This marks the first time that a live show will be held in a venue outside the U.S.A.

With the wrestling business in the U.S. at an all-time low, and a guaranteed 1-day sell out in England, the WWF is assured of success. They are red hot in Europe, reflected by their April tour which sold out everywhere, and broke records for merchandise sales.

Summer Slam is scheduled for Saturday, August 29th. More details will follow.



By John Pinzker

Chicago - Sunday, May 3, 1992. One of the best shows in a long time. Everybody had their working shoes on. Should have been a Pay Per View.

1 - Opening match was good. Michael Hayes beat Dallas Page with DDT, Hayes worked the crowd, Page took some good bumps. 1*

2 - Greg Valentine pinned Bagwell in a 1 1/2* match. Bagwell simply isn't over in Chicago. More cheers for Valentine.

3 - Main event Nikita Koloff beat Van Vader by DQ. Lot of interference by Harley Race. Choking Koloff when referee turned. Short match, both worked hard, wanted to leave Chicago early. A lot of brawling in and out of the ring.

4 - Ron Simmons pinned Terry Taylor, lots of comedy, fan at ringside heckled all heels with ladies clothing, etc. Both guys were laughing. Simmons told the crowd after match he would put clothes on Taylor. Both worked well together. Simmons pinned with power slam. 3***

5 - Johnnie B. Badd pins Tracy Smothers with left hand punch. Good match, lot of action. 2**

6 - Tom Zenk pinned Curtis Hughes with drop-kick off top rope.

7 - Windham/Rhodes beat Zbyszko and both worked hard. Lots of aerial moves in Texas bull rope match. Lot of brawling. Hard to watch as were in and out of the ring, hard for ref to keep up. Windham pushed Zbyszko in a 1* match.

8 - Rick Rude beat Steamboat by a DQ in a 30-minute wild match. Both guys were great. Steamboat worked on left leg of Rude, and Rude worked on Steamboat's nose. Steamboat got involved with Madusa. Steamboat gave Madusa an

COMING NEXT WEEK...

Part one of a three part interview with the incomparable Dave Meltzer, Publisher of The Wrestling Observer. Dave talks for the first time about the birth and evolution of the Observer. Don't miss it. Also the first column by Bill "Potshots" Kunkle, mat memories, the Menu, plus much more.

atomic drop over the top rope which was perfect. Rude brought a chair in the ring. Steamboat got caught using chair for DQ. 3 1/2 stars

9- Cage match. Steiners VS Anderson/Eaton. Rick pins Eaton to win the tag title. Lots of comedy, lots of good bumps by Eaton and Anderson. They rammed Rick's head into the cage several times and so did Rick himself. Rick threw Eaton over the top rope and against the cage several times. End came when Eaton hit Rick with two Alabama jams. Went for a third. Rick caught Eaton and power-slammed him for the pin and the title. 4****

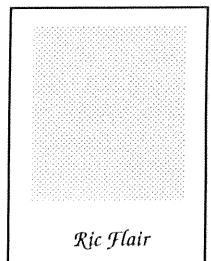
Now Available from Major League Images

Solid Oak Pro Wrestling wall plaques from
1991's Weekend of Champions Convention

Plaques Available:

Lou Thesz, Ric Flair, Bruno Sammartino, Buddy Rogers and Superstar Billy Graham

These plaques are personally autographed and come with a gold name plate.



Very limited supply remaining

Just \$30.00 each or all 5 for \$139.95

Call (516)582-4886 - all major credit cards accepted

Will ship anywhere! Ask about our complete line of Pro Sports autographed memorabilia

Major League Images
3106 Expressway Drive South
Islandia, NY

Ring Review

UCW at St. Stanisla Hall

Exclusive Ringside Report By Gary Langevin,
Editor On The Mat

Universal Championship Wrestling * Debut Card * May 1, 1992 at St. Stanislaus Hall in Nashua, New Hampshire. Co-promoted by Jody Boyns and John McAdam. Attendance Between 150-200.

Bill Wilcox Pinned BR Blade - Blade attacks Wilcox before the bell. Wilcox retaliates with a belly-to-belly suplex. Finish sees Wilcox do a Liger/Muta somersault-moonsault for the pin @ 1:05. (*)

Black & Red Dragons Lost To The Thunderbolts - Thunderbolts are much like the former tag-team of the Rockers. Lots of action, which saw the Bolts do Frankenstieners, double drop-kicks off the top, and an awesome clothesline from outside and over the top rope onto the opponent. Finish had action outside and in with the refs eyes looking out. Black hit one of the Bolts with a kendo stick. The other Bolt came and nailed Black with the kendo then a neck breaker and pinned him @ 6:46 of great action and high flying. (****)

The Untouchables Beat Joel Davis & Billy War Hawk - Untouchables are managed by Travis Melrose of the "Melrose Generation." Untouchables started the match with cocky slaps on War Hawk. When Davis was tagged in, he demonstrated a drop-kick, but was back suplexed and worked on with leg holds and chopped out of the ring (landing at my feet!) Davis re-entered with a roll-up for a two-count. He then tagged out to War Hawk and the left the ringside area to the locker room...Yes, Joel Davis has left the building... This left his sole partner to fight off both Untouchables. Hawk was hit with the old Hart Foundation clothesline for the pin @ 5:36. (**1/2)

"Playboy" Vince Apollo Beats Scott Sharkey - Lots of crowd heat, Sharkey the local favorite. Fans would chant "Fat Boy" at Apollo. Long match with the advantage going back and forth. All of Apollo's hot struts, zingers and moves made it a great match and showed why Vince is one of the top workers in the biz. Sharkey took a dive out of the ring landing on the ringside table, smacking his knee fairly good. He favored it the rest of the match and submitted to Apollo's figure-four @ 14:08. (***1/2)

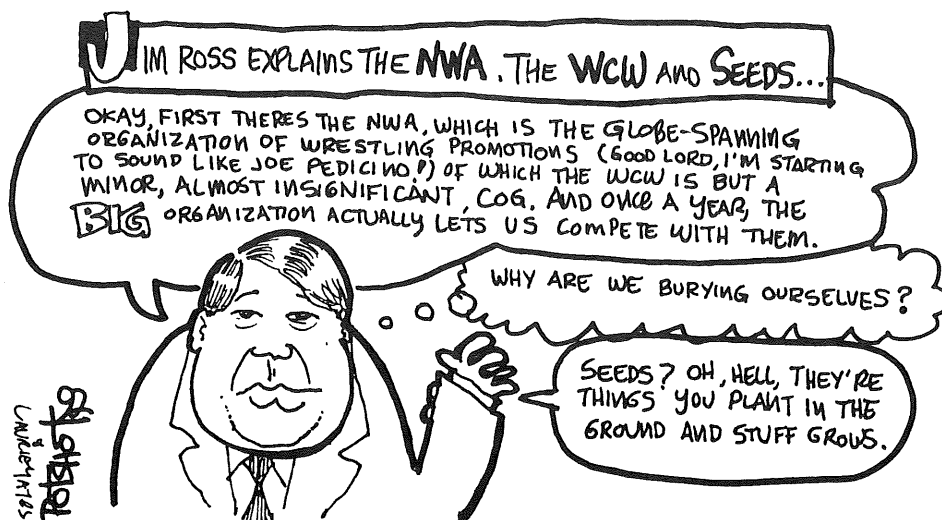
Scott Taylor Pinned Joel Davis - (1/2 Thunderbolt) - with the Melrose Generation flocking ringside, Davis exchanged side headlocks, then excited. He threw a chair from outside across to the other side of the ring almost hitting the front row,

had the chair not graced the rope. Action continued with Davis kicking and stomping at Taylor. The finish saw Taylor try a sunset flip with Davis' hands on the top ropes. When the ref kicked Davis off the ropes Taylor pulled Davis over and got the pin. As Davis left, the Untouchables came out and beat on Taylor. T-Bolt partner, Steve Ramsey would come out. The brawl that took place now was the most incredible thing I have ever witnessed live. It began with the two teams exchanging punches, quickly moved to the outside and saw chair shots, head shots into the steel ringpost, punches, kicks, chops and hard hitting action all over the floor and into the crowd (all this while manager, Melrose, was hidden safely under the ring!) An interesting development did occur when a "Ringside Rosie", as Chris Cruise called her, hit one T-Bolt (I believe Taylor?) with a chair! Security quickly stepped in. First off, there should never be any fan participation such as that, but wouldn't you think if a person was crazy enough to hit a wrestler it would be the Heel? Anyway, I'm off the subject again, a spike-pile driver was delivered to a Bolt by an Untouch on the concrete, this then saw a head driven into a door and then a garbage can was emptied and thrown, the two then battled their way into the concession stand (as Jody and John's jaws dropped in amazement...or horror!) I thought this was over, so I ran back to my seat with camera shooting, I see that the Untouches and Bolts are now in front of the locker room doors with garbage cans, fists and heads flying. The two teams then brawled to the back exiting through the door of the locker room. As the door slams I have visions of Memphis flashing in my head - Moondogs, Lawler and Jarrett, move over! A 5* brawl. UNBELIEVABLE!

Scott Sharkey Pinned The Black Dragon - Sharkey, still limping from the previous match, was worked on early by Dragon. As Dragon tried a spinning toe-hold Sharkey cradled him up for a pin @ 1:32 of a quick match. (*)

We Would Like To Welcome...

Beginning with this issue, PWS is very pleased to welcome Bill Kunkle and his popular "Potshots." I've known Bill for a long time (since the mid-70's) and we're pleased to be associated with his unique and entertaining style. Welcome Bill!



"Freight Train" Fulton drew with "Flying" Bill Wilcox - This match was solid action. Started off by hard chops from Fulton, retaliated by a Frankenstiener by the man John McAdam calls, "The best kept secret in the United States." Fulton did a football tackle-like dive onto Wilcox from the ring apron to the floor. The match returned inside with mat wrestling and an exchange of near falls. Fulton Samoan-dropped Wilcox who kicked out. Fulton took the action outside and tossed Wilcox to the ringside table. Fulton then climbed onto the table, lifted Wilcox up and piledrove Wilcox' head through the hard wood table onto the non-padded floor. The table smashed into three pieces and looked to be done just as good as Randy Savage ever did to Rick Morton in Memphis, or Terry Funk ever did to Flair in the NWA. Wilcox would go on to wrestle some ten minutes after this Excedrin headache number, (well you get the point!) When Wilcox entered he took control with a suplex into a bridge for a two-count. He then executed a Liger/Muta somersault-moonsault as well. Wilcox covered Fulton. After Fulton missed a dive off the top rope, the bell rang! Match was a time-limit draw with the two going some 22:25 non-stop. (*****) Co-promoter John McAdams gave a great interview saying he "wondered what has happened to pro wrestling?" He then assured fans that they would be back in the St. Stanislaus Hall every two weeks!

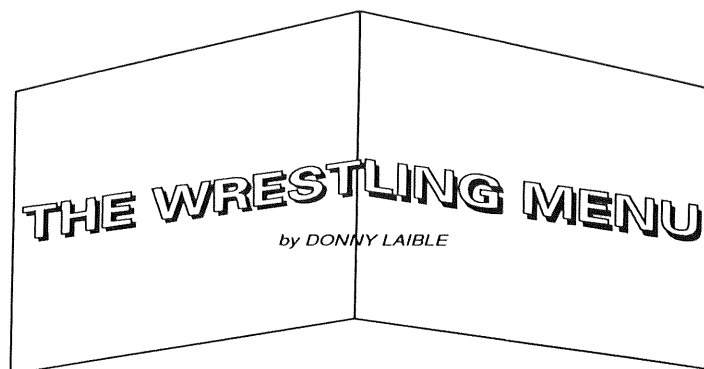
(I want to add that if you are in the New England area you must see this group, they deliver great wrestling and you will love it, go to Nashua!)

Maverick Sykes Pinned BR Blade - Sykes is impressive. He slammed the 300lb.+ Blade and knee-dropped him off the top rope for a pin @ 4:49. (*1/2)

Billy war Hawk Beat Red Dragon - War Hawk grabbed the mike and challenge Joel Davis saying "Nobody turns me on like that." They will feud on future cards. Davis claims he will do a "war dance" on Billy War Hawk. With action underway, Red and Hawk tie up, then Red puts Hawk in an abdominal stretch. Finish sees War Hawk put a "perfect-plex" like suplex on Red for the pin @ 3:39 of a good solid match. (**)

ON THE MAT NOTES - Overall the card was excellent and a far step above anything in this area before. It was a great feeling in the positive to this promotion. It is not an easy thing to break into promoting cards, but these guys gave it the best shot I have honestly seen. One of the keys to this has to be that Jody and John are "life-long" wrestling fans! That is something that not all people in this business are anymore. Remember fans, they are in St. Stans' in Nashua, NH every two weeks on Friday nights. Come out and see Universal Championship Wrestling, for information call (603-888-4516. Chris Cruise was on hand with play-by-play and seemed very happy to be there and did one outstanding job. (How he followed that brawl I will never know!) The UCW is taping all cards for airing after they occur on local television (no details such as channel, time or days are available at this time.) John and Jody - I wish you the best of luck, see ya' in the Hall!

John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight Newsletter is a publication of Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions. Corporate Offices are located at 136 North Carll Avenue, Suite 125, Babylon, New York 11702. Subscriptions are 1 month-\$6.00, 3 months-\$15.00, 6 months-\$30.00 and 1 year-\$60.00. Any unauthorized reproduction or distribution either in full or edited form is strictly forbidden with out written permission from the publisher. Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions™ 1992



Hey, what a way to begin this weeks column - in Utica, New York's Greyhound bus station. Who says I'm not eccentric! In a few hours I'll be in New England for two of "Killer" Kowalski's International Wrestling Federation shows. Cowboy Bob Orton and the Honky Tonk Man are in the Main Event on both shows. Which leads me to a few plugs.

First, this offer goes out especially to all autograph collectors. For an 8x10 photo personally signed by the Honky Tonk Man, send \$6.00 to: HTM Enterprises, 8336 Westfair Circle South, Germantown, TN 38139. Next - when visiting in the St. Louis, MO area and the urge to workout in a well equipped, ultra modern fitness center hits you, dial up 314-731-2030 to get directions for PHYSIQUE WORLD GYM in Hazelwood, MO. Cowboy Bob Orton is co-owner of the gym and says \$10.00 a day is the rate for anyone who feels like making a pit stop.

All right, now down to more timely business items. Wrestling's greatest ring announcer of all-time, Jimmy Lennon, passed away recently in the Santa Monica, California area, of cancer. Jimmy will always be remembered as a pro's pro, forget it - don't even try and tell me Howard Finkel or anyone else was a close second to Mr. Lennon...Separated at birth, designer Giorgio Armani and Angelo Poffo...All that comedy and stupidity exhibited by Rick Steiner during TV interviews, at least in my book qualifies him easily to be a cross between George Steele and Ivan Putski. The folks at WCW want us to think he's a college grad, All-American - as Monsoon would say - "Give me a break."

Can you believe it - I'm not kidding you on this. Joel Goodhart is now a financial security planner in Blue Bell, PA. His number is 215-628-4410...The Mongolian Mauler and Kevin Sullivan are working on a tour of New Zealand and Singapore for promoter Steve Rickard...Anyone who remembers Paul Heyman handling the TV commentating for the National Wrestling Federation knew back in the mid-80's that he was a budding star. IWF Light Heavyweight Champ Perry Saturn can run rings around Brian Pillman. Remember Perry's name, he's going to make you forget a lot of wrestlers.

Remember the wrestling album put out by the WWF in 1985? One of the wrestlers featured on the album cover told me his royalties check from its sales was a whopping \$150.00...While in Boston during March, at the hotel after the Gardens show, a birthday party was held for The Warlord. Virgil walked in with him. The Bushwhackers, Bret Hart and other baby faces joined the party. Do the words Kay Fab come to mind, boys?...A friend of mine was asked by Afa the Samoan recently to work a tour in Lebanon - you know, the hostage taking capital of the world. With his US passport, I told my

PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Merchandise Catalog

Videos

Cactus Jack vs. Eddie Gilbert

\$29.95

The Feud of 1991. 6 complete matches including Falls Count Anywhere, Barbed Wire, 2 Out Of 3 Falls, Blood bath (Gilbert breaks a bottle over his head).

Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express

29.95 per
volume

"The Early Days"

Three volumes, 6 complete hours of footage assembled by Jim Cornette. Footage dating back to 1975.

75.00 complete 3
volume set
(includes personally
signed letter by
Jim Cornette)

1991 Weekend of Champions Convention

29.95

See flair, Rogers, Thesz, Bruno, Woman, Cactus, Rude, Meltzer & More! Includes candid scenes, Q&A session and auction.

1991 Pro Wrestling Spotlight Booster Club Video

49.95

2 volume set - 6 full hours - Rare footage of Bruiser Brady, Buddy Rogers, Gilbert-Lawler, Funk, Cactus, Japan & much more.

1992 Pro Wrestling Spotlight Booster Club Video

59.95

BRAND NEW! Two volume set includes rare footage of 1960's WWWF TV wrestling, Cactus Jack music videos, The Original Sheik, Sammartino/Zbysko feud, Pro Wrestling Spotlight radio's 100th show video with Cactus Jack, Jushin Thunder Liger and more!

Best of Stan Hansen Japanese Video

29.95

Audio tapes

A chance to catch the shows you missed or relive the ones you love!

Best of P W S Radio Show 1989

10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly June 1991
(Cactus/Paul E.)

10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly July 1991
(Zaharion trial coverage)

10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly August 1991
(Vince McMahon press conference)

10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly Sept. 1991
(Live remote from Weekend of Champions convention. Bruno, Moolah, Cactus, OX Baker Rockin Robin and More!)

10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly October 1991
(Fred Blassie, Buddy Rogers, Terry Funk, Bruno)

10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly November 1991
(Explosive Eddie Gilbert interview)

10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly December 1991 (X-Mas show, Missy Hyatt, Cactus Jack)	10.00
Pro Wrestling Spotlight - Debut Show WEVD (Explosive debut with Billy Graham, David Shults)	10.00
Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly February 1992 (Jesse Ventura Show)	10.00
Pro Wrestling Spotlight March 15, 1992 (2 hour blockbuster WWF sex scandal explodes. Billy Jack Hayes, Dave Meltzer, Barry O., Billy Graham, Lord Littlebrook, Karate Kid)	20.00
BEST OF Cactus Jack on P W S	15.00
BEST OF Paul E Dangerously on P W S	15.00
Cactus Jack on Howard Stern (August '91) (with Fred "the elephant boy")	15.00
1985 Pro Wrestling Spotlight show (Rare show, pilot for today's program, Guests - Tully Blanchard & Lou Albano) (This is 1 of 2 shows which aired on WNYG-AM in 1985)	15.00
Authentic Autographed photos	
Buddy Rogers/Lou Thesz/Jim Cornette/Johnny Valiant	10.00 each
Bruno Sammartino	15.00 each
Superstar Billy Graham, Ric Flair(just a few left)	25.00 each
Misc.	
Bruno Sammartino autobiography (Now out of print)	20.00 each
Autographed copy of Bruno Sammartino's autobiography (Just a couple left)	30.00 each

Subscribe Now!!!

John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight Newsletter

1 Month	\$6.00
3 Months	\$15.00
6 Months	\$30.00
1 Year	\$60.00

Please add 5.00 for postage and handling to each video tape ordered, 2.00 for each audio tape ordered.

Make check or money order payable to:
Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions
136 North Carll Ave. Suite 125
Babylon, New York 11702
(Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery)

wrestling buddy he may get all the exposure he could ever wish for - should his face turn up on NIGHTLINE with Ted Koppel with a day 1 graphic next to him.

I said it before, I'll say it again. WCW needs to call David Sammartino, at least try him out - he lives in Atlanta and is said to be in the best physical shape of his career. As a light heavyweight, he'd run anyone's butt ragged... Has "Iron" Mike Sharpe ever not been the last guy out of an arena, including the janitor?...Back to The Warlord, I've never seen him turn away an autograph request - that means a lot, especially to the little kids...Perhaps Terry Taylor should spray Rick Martel's "Arrogance", then again, that type of attitude seems to come naturally for him.

Here's an idea. How about Tito Santana appears on Wrestle Mania 10, receives a special award for his years of service with the WWF and a retirement match gets played up big, of which he wins and goes out in a blaze of glory?...The Undertaker, Papa Shango, the Roberts-Warrior shtick last year, is it me or is Vince McMahon in to the occult, just a smidgen?...How about a masked referee in the WWF or WCW? It hasn't been done in years, not since the early 1970's in Los Angeles. Hey, it would be a new gimmick to build a feud on...Shane Douglas' ring career is said to be in limbo. With his teaching job ending shortly, no word from WCW yet if they'll bring him in. I'd like to see Shane and Tom Zenk work as a team. Trivia time - What was Big John Studd's first ring name?

Check out the current issue of WWF Magazine (Elizabeth on cover). Look at the page showing the sign at Slick's church. The photo is touched up so his real name is unreadable...Get this, as I arrived at the Boston Greyhound station at 6:30AM (Sunday) - who do you think I saw? Tony Atlas - in the flesh! "Mr. USA" was heading back home to Maine. Don't look for him to be on any Savoldi shows soon.

Before I sneak out of here to unpack, here's the trivia answer - "The Mighty Minton". Remember, anything on your mind about pro wrestling, feel free to share your thoughts with me. Until next week - see ya! Donny Laible, P.O. Box 443 Ilion, NY 13357

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

See page 7 for details on how to receive John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight Newsletter each and every week, so you won't be left in the dark!

Keep the Spotlight shining! Become a Booster Club member today. See Page 11 for details

Mat Memories

By John Arezzi

The following article appeared in the August, 1979 issue of Ring Wrestling Magazine. It detailed my experience as a jobber for a WWWF TV taping. The account below is based partially on truth, but mostly on fiction. Next week this column will detail the true mat memories I have of the night I entered the ring to work.

I guess it's just about every true pro wrestling fan's dream. That dream is to get in the ring himself and wrestle before thousands of fans. As a wrestling fan for sixteen years, the last six of those as a professional writer, I had the same dream myself. But, unlike most fans, that dream has come true for me.

It has taken me over a year to write this story. There were many reasons for this reluctance to put into words my experiences in the ring. The biggest one was the fact that I wasn't sure whether or not I wanted to continue in the wrestling sport, or promoters, and other wrestlers to think I only wrestled so I could write about it. I decided to do this article so that all those who do have that dream to wrestle could gain a little understanding on the feeling of the experience.

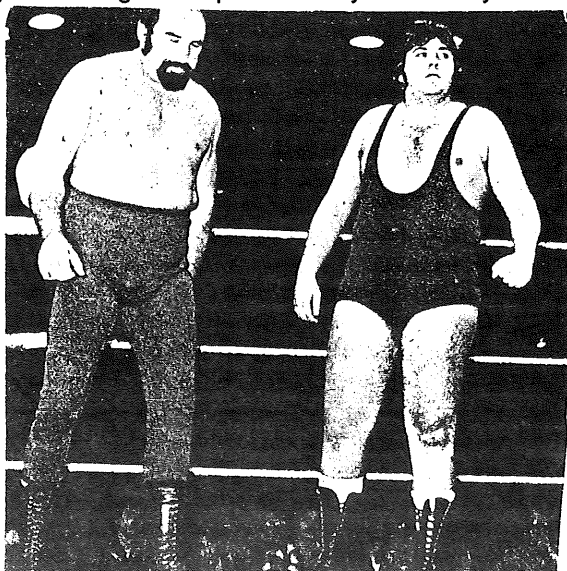
Many people have asked me "How did you manage to get the chance to wrestle?" Well, as I mentioned earlier, I've been writing on the professional level for about six years. I began as the President of the Fred Blassie Fan Club from the years 1972 through 1975. During that time the club managed to win "Fan Club of the Year" and "Best Monthly Fan Publication" as voted by the "Wrestling Fans International Association." Those years involved with the club allowed me to get to know several wrestlers, reporters, and promoters. When I began writing professionally, I made more contacts in the wrestling world. But all that was not enough. I had to be big enough to get in the ring. Being that I was five foot eight and 220 pounds, I would have to say that I was not "Fragile." I did have an amateur background, being involved with high school wrestling.

It was not an easy task to try to get into this sport, even for a few matches. But I had patience, didn't pressure anyone, and bided my time. It was in November of 1977 that I learned I might have a chance to appear in the ring at a WWWF television taping, in Philadelphia. I would find out in January of 1978. I couldn't believe I had come this close. In order to get ready for the match I began working out and training very hard. I also managed to secure a match for an independent wrestling group in West Virginia. But, two days before I was scheduled to appear in that match, I cracked a collarbone in a training session. The injury occurred when I was backdropped and it disabled me until the end of December. Even if I got the chance to appear on the tapes, I know I wouldn't be 100% healthy. But, it was too good of a chance to pass up.

The big night for me was January 10th, 1978. I arrived in Philadelphia via bus from New York City. At this point I didn't know whether or not I would be wrestling, just that there was a chance, and that was enough for me. Hell, if I didn't wrestle

I would simply cover the matches, as I would usually do. It was this unsureness that prompted me NOT to tell any of my wrestling acquaintances that I might be putting on the tights myself that night.

I waited around for a while before I was informed that, yes, there would be a spot on the tapes for me. I went into the dressing room and put on my gear. Some of the wrestlers were shocked to see me in there. Friends like Fred Blassie, The Grand Wizard, and Billy Graham offered words of advice and confidence. For the first time I was scared of wrestling. "Why am I doing this" repeated in my mind every few minutes,



but I was also in awe of what was happening.

Here I was, dressing next to Spiros Arion, a man who was my very favorite wrestler back in the sixties. It was incredible. But, I didn't even know who I was wrestling. I asked The Grand Wizard to please find out. He came back and whispered "Dusty Rhodes" in a tone like "you asked for it." Now I got worried, not only about appearing in front of thousands of people in the arena and millions at home, but about getting out of there alive.

Silvana Sousa came up to me and mentioned that he was to be my partner. The promoters decided to make it a handicap match, seeing it was new to me. Sousa is a young, but rather experienced wrestler who has appeared all over the world. I was happy to have him in my corner, and I thought "what if we beat Dusty," instant success. I spotted my opponent on the other side of the dressing room. He was laughing and joking with Bob Backlund. He was not concerned at all about facing us.

Well, it finally came time for Silvana and I to enter the ring. It was the strangest feeling I ever had. Here I was going into the ring I must have taken over one thousand photos of. Then I heard friends and other reporters look in the ring in amazement. As I said, I hadn't told a soul, so they had shock of their lives. From then on I was concentration on wrestling, and trying to protect myself from physical harm.

Rhodes entered the ring to cheers. I can remember all the cheering for Rhodes, but I do not recall my introduction. Could it be that I was nervous? Does the president like peanuts?

Silvana told me that we should both try to stay in the ring at the same time, as two men against one superstar would give us a good chance to win. The bell rang and Rhodes waited for us. I charged him, but Dusty just moved out of the way. The people laughed and I got mad. Sousa grabbed Rhodes by the hair and pushed him into a corner. He told me "come on" and I began punching Dusty on top of the head. I wound up and delivered a knee to his jaw. It hurt him, but even worse GOT HIM MAD! Dusty threw Silvana out of the ring. I guess he wanted me in there alone. I charged him, but this time Dusty grabbed me by the hair and gave me an elbow smash on top of the head. A sharp pain shot down my entire body. Dusty was not through with me. He yanked me up by the hair and delivered another bionic elbow to my head. I didn't know where I was at this point. Then he grabbed me in an arm lock which hurt my previous shoulder injury. Sousa finally re-entered the ring. He was shaken up from hitting the cement floor. Rhodes grabbed him by the hair letting me go, then he yanked me up again and smashed our two heads together. I went reeling again. The rest was kind of a blur. All I know is that it lasted another minute or two, as Dusty picked me up and body slammed me on top of Sousa and pinned us both. We'd lost and I was hurting.

Back in the dressing room I rested and ached until the next taping was to take place. I went over to Dusty and shook his hand and apologized for getting him angry. I told him I was just trying to survive in there. He understood and it made me feel better. The next taping was about to begin and I was going to wrestle again.

Since I guess they figured I was a roughhouse wrestler, the promoters matched me with a new partner, veteran Joe Turco, to face Chief Jay Strongbow and Prince Peter Maivia. I was reluctant to enter the ring at all this time, but decided to give my all to win. I didn't fare too well in this bout either.

Turco began the match against Strongbow. It seemed as though Jay and Maivia were playing with Joe as they refused to let him tag me. I was getting angry. To make matters worse. Strongbow would occasionally come over and chop me in the throat or on top of my already badly bruised head. Finally, Turco reached and tagged me, but before I had a chance to enter the ring, Strongbow threw me in the hard way, over the top ropes. He then picked me up and flung me into the waiting arms of Peter, who gave me a coco butt which blacked me out for a few seconds. Strongbow fell on top of me for the winning pin. Apparently, Dusty told Strongbow and Maivia about my sore head. After that, their game plan was set.

I showered and dressed. Fellow reporter George Napolitano (who supplied the photos for this story) offered to give me a ride back to New York. I was paid and thanked the promoters for the chance to get in there. It was an experience I'll never forget. Although I'm not sure whether or not I'll ever get in there again, the dream was fulfilled and I'm not sorry I did it. For all those who hope to get in there with and big boys, good luck. You'll need it.

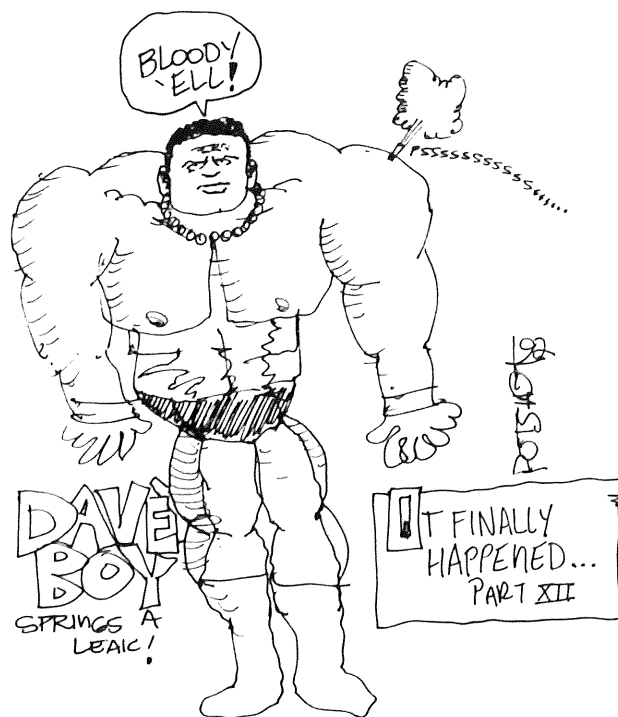
We want your mat memories. Send us yours and if we use it you'll receive one additional month on your current subscription, free! Send all memories to: Pro Wrestling Spotlight, Mat Memories, 136 N. Carl Ave. Suite 125, Babylon, NY 11702

Rasslin Racism

We all know how blacks and Hispanics have been portrayed. We all know how women have been portrayed as supportive characters, bimbos, t & a idiots. That was why "corporate bitch", Alexandra York, was so refreshing - intelligent, dignified and thankfully Dusty never had spanked her on camera as we were dreading. The opportunities are there for Madusa's WCW character - tough, with an opinion and a mind and able to defend herself - alone. But these are the exceptions, and are more current. Why did we not complain years ago at many of the territories (Los Angeles for me included) that usually had only one token black athlete? Mike Lebell in 1968 was finally forced to go beyond having Pepper Gomez, and he brought in Black Gordman (who first partnered Gomez) and Mil Mascaras who made him nothing but money. Since L. A. was becoming more Hispanic; Pepe Lopez, Raul Mata, Ray Mendoza, Goliath, Ruben Juarez, Vic Rivera, Juan Rivas (Vic's brother), Raul Reyes and many more were added. Tolos, Blassie and Ladd were forced to "work the other side of the street" - left handed and wrestle their Hispanic brothers, and everyone was the better for it.

Dear John,

Bob Lenhart
Middle Village, NY



Joel Gertner Presents

Wrestling videos from the
'60s, '70s, '80s & '90's

Major Promotions,
Japan, Mexico and more

- Best Buy -
"The Best of Ric Flair"
14 hours/3 volume set

Just in
8 volume set featuring "The Top 100 Matches of the
1980's." In order as listed in the *1989 Wrestling Ob-
server Yearbook*

Custom Made Tapes Available

To order or request a 50 page catalog call: Joel Gertner (718)338-0194
(until 11PM eastern time)

Or write:

Joel Gertner
P.O. Box 337
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Send \$4.00 for postage and handling on catalog orders

Join the 1992 Pro Wrestling Spotlight Booster Club

Three levels of membership: \$25, \$50 or \$125
Receive:

Membership Card
T-Shirt
Video

Discount on all merchandise, bus trips,
and admission to events such as parties
and the annual convention And more!

For more details call (516) 587-2861

Help yourself to some great stuff while
helping to keep us on the air!

WRESTLING TAPE OFFER

BEST OF JUSHIN "THUNDER" LIGER

JUSHIN LIGER

vs. Aikra Nogami
vs. Naoki Sano (4 Great Matches)
& Nogami vs. Pegasus Kid & Naoki Sano
vs. Owen Hart
vs. Masagi Aoyagi
vs. Black Tiger (Mark Rocco)
vs. Pegasus Kid (IWGP Jr. Hwt. Title)

ONLY - \$20.00

Also Available:

Tri-State Wrestling Alliance's Autumn Armageddon II

Featuring:

Owen Hart vs. Takayuki Izuka
Terry Funk vs. Kevin Sullivan
Eddie Gilbert & Madusa Micelli vs.
Cactus & Luna
The Original Sheik vs. Abby, Sullivan & Funk

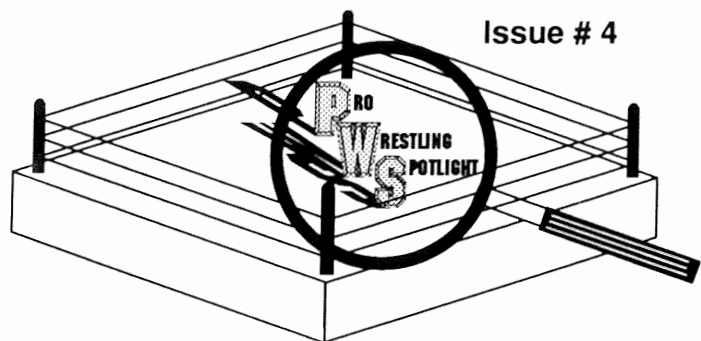
ONLY - \$20.00

Both Tapes For Only - \$35.00

200 Page Catalog with over 400 other titles only - \$12.00

Send Check or Money Order to:

Rob Feinstein
865 Green Ridge Circle
Langhorne, PA 19053
(215) 752-4279



Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions
136 N. Carl Avenue, Suite 125
Babylon, NY 11702

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Subscription Current Through Issue Number
on Mailing Label. This is Issue #4. If Your
Label Reads #4, This is your LAST ISSUE.
Please Resubscribe at Least Two Issues
Before Expiring. Thank You.